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ABSTRACT

This guide presents the Future Farmers of America (FFA) 2000 Model of Innovation award winners' projects. Chapters demonstrated abilities to identify goals and objectives, create a workable plan of action, attain and evaluate results, and identify items learned and ways to improve. Chapter 1 discusses the FFA National Chapter Award program that recognizes chapters for their efforts in planning and meeting program of activities objectives in student, chapter, and community development divisions. Chapter 2 lists the 2000 National Chapter Award winners and Middle Grade winner. Chapters 3-5 describe the National Chapter Award Winner in one of the three divisions and presents summaries of activities of other chapters. Chapter 3, Student Development Division, includes these activities: leadership, healthy lifestyle, supervised agricultural experience, scholarship, and agricultural career skill. Chapter 4, Chapter Development Division, includes these activities: chapter recruitment, financial activities, public relations activities, leadership activities, and support group activities. Chapter 5, Community Development Division, includes these activities: economic, environmental, human resources, citizenship, and agricultural awareness. Chapter 6 describes the winning Middle Grade Chapter and explains how to develop a program of activities. Chapters 7-8 provide tips for membership recruitment and National Chapter Award success. (YLB)

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ChapterInnovatorsGuide

Models of Innovation Award Winners

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The Agricultural Education Mission

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

Produced by the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

CARGILL

[redacted]

Spring 2001

Dear Friends of FFA,

Congratulations to the FFA National Chapter Awards winners for 2000. These winners exemplify the outstanding efforts of FFA chapters around the country to develop programs that emphasize student, chapter and community development. These winning chapters illustrate FFA's passion for innovation and desire to turn ideas into actions.

Cargill and FFA have partnered together for 40 years bringing programs such as the National Chapter Awards to FFA members around the country. In fact, Cargill has contributed $4 million to FFA since 1961. We continue this support because Cargill believes that FFA is dedicated to encouraging innovation and action that will help preparing leaders that are so vital for our future. The National Chapter Award winners illustrate this commitment.

We encourage every chapter to review the outstanding work illustrated in this book and apply for 2001 award. We would like to recognize your chapter's dedication to excellence as well. We look forward to seeing even more innovative and exciting work by FFA Chapters in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Alan Willits
Vice President, Cargill AgHorizons

Cargill is an international marketer, processor and distributor of agricultural, food, financial and industrial products and services with 81,000 employees in 60 countries. The company provides distinctive customer solutions to supply chain management, food applications and health and nutrition. Through subsidiaries, partnerships and joint ventures, Cargill contributes more than $17 million each year to civic and charitable organizations to help fulfill the company's vision of raising living standards around the world by delivering increased value to producers and consumers.

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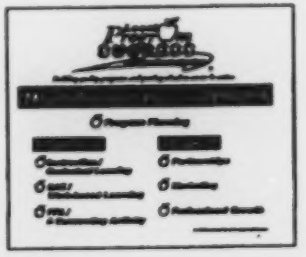
The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.



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Models of Innovation

The FFA National Chapter Award program recognizes chapters for their efforts in planning and meeting the objectives they create in their Program of Activities (POA). The Program of Activities that an FFA chapter develops serves as their guide for events throughout the year. The POA and award program has three divisions—Student Development, Chapter Development and Community Development. The ten highest scoring chapters in each division receive the Model of Innovation Award at the national convention each year.

The 2000 Model of Innovation award winners' projects are presented in this guide. You will read about the variety of ways in which FFA chapters identify their needs, create and implement their plans and evaluate their results. The award judges were impressed with these chapters' abilities to identify goals and objectives, create a workable plan of action, attain and evaluate their results, and identify items learned and future ways to improve.

Use ideas from this guide to create new ideas for activities for your FFA chapter. When your new officer team is elected, sit down as a group and review the ideas found in this book and use it as a resource when you develop your POA. This book also contains insights from students and advisors, a summary of the award program, tips for National Chapter Award success and ideas for recruiting more members into your FFA chapter.

Strive to strengthen your students, chapter and community in innovative ways. Organize your chapter activities with a written Program of Activities, apply for recognition and reap the rewards of innovation in your school, community and beyond!

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Accomplished FFA chapters share one common trait—they understand that success is the result of planning and implementation. The FFA National Chapter Award program encourages chapters to develop and use a written Program of Activities (POA) and recognizes chapters' achievements through the following awards:

State Superior Chapter

Any chapter in good standing that completes at least one activity related to each of the National Chapter Award program's 15 quality standards (see box) may apply for this award. State Superior Chapters receive a recognition certificate.

State Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards

Chapters that qualify for the State Superior Chapter award may supply additional information about three activities in each division. State judges score these activities to determine State Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Winning chapters receive a multi-year plaque. As awards are earned in subsequent years, they receive plaque inserts specifying the level achieved.

Three-Star, Two Star and One-Star Gold Awards

Chapters receiving the State Gold award may compete for national awards. (The number of applications a state may submit is restricted to no more than 10 percent of its total number of chapters.) National award judges score the applications. Each chapter receives a multi-year plaque with an engraved plate that indicates its achievement of the Three-Star, Two-Star or One-Star award. The "star" designation signifies overall achievement in the National Chapter Award program.

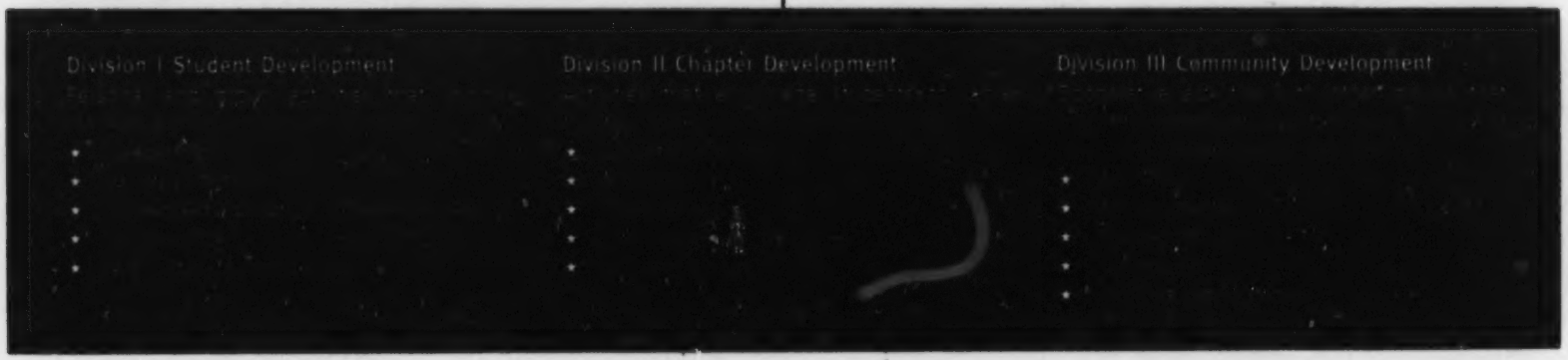
Models of Innovation Awards

The Model of Innovation awards are presented to the 10 top-scoring final Three-Star chapters in each division. These chapters each receive a special recognition plaque at the national FFA convention. Special recognition is also given at the national FFA convention to the top-rated middle grade FFA chapter.

For complete details on the FFA National Chapter Award program, consult *Chapter Planning and Recognition: A Student Handbook*. It is available for $5 from the National FFA Organization and can be found on the summer mailing CD-Rom. For a hard copy, call 1-888-332-2668 and request Item # NCAH.

Chapter Quality Standards

The FFA National Chapter Award program recognizes chapters' development and uses of a written Program of Activities that addresses the quality standards in the three divisions. The divisions and their standards follow. For more information on each standard, refer to the corresponding sections of this book.



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Student Development Division

National Winner

Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska

Model of Innovation Finalists

Melbourne FFA Chapter, Arkansas
Chicago High School for Agricultural Science, Illinois
Franklin Center FFA Chapter, Illinois
Monticello FFA Chapter, Illinois
Olney FFA Chapter, Illinois
Carroll FFA Chapter, Indiana
Clinton Central FFA Chapter, Indiana
Tri-County FFA Chapter, Indiana
Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska
Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

Chapter Development Division

National Winner

Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

Model of Innovation Finalists

Norco FFA Chapter, California
Heritage FFA Chapter, Indiana
South Adams FFA Chapter, Indiana
Harlan FFA Chapter, Iowa
Easton FFA Chapter, Maryland
Park FFA Chapter, Montana
Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska
East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio
New Bremen FFA Chapter, Ohio
Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

Community Development Division

National Winner

Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

Model of Innovation Finalists

Housatonic Valley FFA Chapter, Connecticut
Heritage FFA Chapter, Indiana
Shenandoah FFA Chapter, Indiana
Chicago High School for Agricultural Science, Illinois
Cissna Park FFA Chapter, Illinois
Marshall FFA Chapter, Michigan
Aurora FFA Chapter, Missouri
Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon
Monroe FFA Chapter, Washington
Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

Outstanding Middle Grade Chapter

Jeff Davis FFA Chapter, Georgia

The 2000 awards are based on activities completed during a 12-month period between January 1999 and June 2000 (deadlines vary by state).

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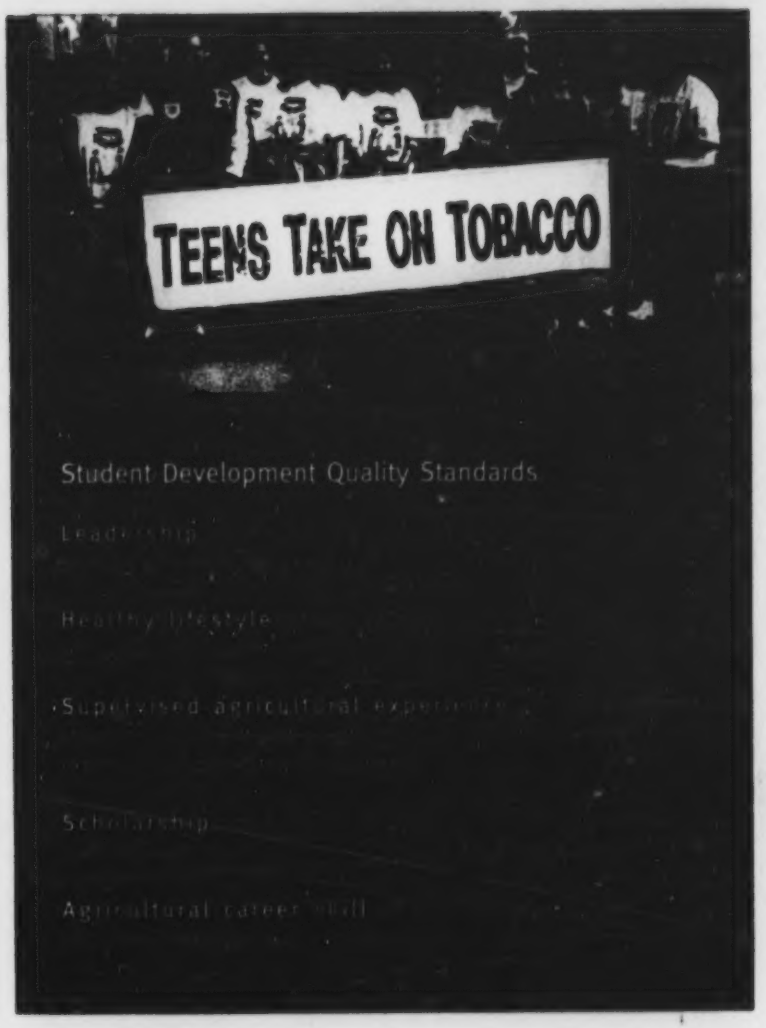
Student Development Division

The Winner for Year 2000 is

RavennaFFAChapter,Ravenna,NE



"Aim to accomplish
something that's
out of your grasp,
shoot for the moon!"
Jason Deines
2000-2001
Ravenna FFA Chapter
Newsreporter

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National Chapter Award Winner

After 29 years serving as the Ravenna FFA advisor, you might think Kent Zeller has trouble developing a Program of Activities. Not so, he says, "once you get the ball rolling, students can see what they get to do and where they get to go. They want action, they raise their hands, volunteer, do things and step out of the classroom." Zeller sees himself as a provider of opportunities for his students and keeps his chapter's POA totally student-oriented.

As a means of promoting leadership activities, the Ravenna FFA Chapter has developed a policy to finance 50% of the registration fee at leadership activities. This enabled members to participate in numerous activities including MFE, Junior High Quiz Bowl and the national FFA convention. This is where sophomore Gena Vacek said, "meeting new people from all over our nation and having a chance to talk to them and learn why they joined FFA was exciting."

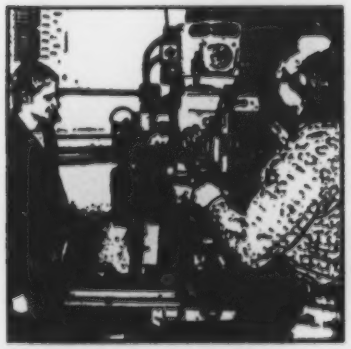
Ravenna FFA had a two-fold healthy lifestyle activity that included a Teens Take on Tobacco Rally and co-hosting the Farm Safety 4 Just Kids day with Ravenna Cargill. The chapter's Teens Take on Tobacco involvement began four years ago and this year included a march and rally with Governor Johanns. FFA members were well educated on tobacco legislation when they met with their representatives at the state capital of Lincoln and while participating in other tobacco-related activities throughout the year.

Ravenna FFA along with Cargill co-hosted the Farm Safety 4 Just Kids day and utilized suggestions from the prior year to make this event an even greater success. FFA members helped set up booths on everything from large machinery to an EMT jaws of life demonstration. Participants included over 350 K-6 students along with 22 faculty.

Ravenna FFA members traveled to Lincoln to get involved in the "learning" and "doing" process by attending seminars on legislation. Students attended "mock" hearings to learn about legislative procedures and also met with district representative, Jim Cudaback.

Members toured 14 area businesses. The tours helped them explore career opportunities. They connected to the Internet for their career and résumé development as well as curriculum information.

Ravenna FFA Chapter set a goal of a "total quality" FFA program in order to qualify for the $1,000 award from Nebraska Investment Finance Authority. They won and used the money to purchase a computer and printer that the entire chapter uses in class.



Team FFA

The overall goal of this activity was to develop leadership skills in members. One hundred percent of the chapter members developed a personal plan of action that included goal setting and tracking their leadership development. The chapter sent 14 students to the state and national officer tour, five members to MFE and 25 members to the state convention. Team FFA encouraged members to participate in CDEs that could enhance their leadership skills. Twenty-five members advanced to state level competition.

Monroe FFA Chapter, Washington

Project "TEAM"

This chapter emphasizes leadership for all and set a goal of involving everyone in their leadership workshops, camps and seminars. TEAM stands for teaching excellence attitude and motivation. Improving these areas was the focus at the program in which ninety-seven members participated. Members also attended Washington Leadership Conference (WLC), state leadership workshops and area leadership training.

Aurora FFA Chapter, Missouri

Leadership Abounds

This chapter had a goal of involving 40% of its members in competition above the chapter level. Twenty-nine students participated at the district or higher level (38%). Three teams went on to regional competition and one to the state level.

Marshall FFA Chapter, Michigan

More Leadership Ideas

Greenhouse Glory

Say PALS Please

Basic Leadership Training

Convention-Here We Come

Lead the Way

One Day of Workshops

Thanksgiving Day Dinner Baskets

4th-and 5th-Grade Agriscience Day

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These activities promote the well being and self-esteem of students, either mentally or physically.

Smoke Free Week

In conjunction with the junior high FFA, this chapter sponsored a successful Smoke Free Week at the middle school. Students prepared posters and announcements to promote the cause and handed out information on the perils of tobacco usage.

Shenandoah FFA Chapter, Indiana

EquiFriends

With a goal of promoting the well being and self-esteem of students both mentally and physically, this chapter had twenty members trained in therapeutic horseback riding. Members gained self-confidence by helping patients who benefited from both the relationships and therapeutic effects of riding. The company, Equifriends, gained valuable volunteers for their program.

Monroe FFA Chapter, Washington

Tobacco Control

To educate citizens of their community about the dangers of smokeless tobacco, members created and manned a display at the fair. Adults and youth visited and watched an emotional video about the tragedies that can result from chewing tobacco.

Norco FFA Chapter, California

CPR Class

FFA alumni members offered a free class in CPR for all interested FFA members.

Cissna Park FFA Chapter, Illinois

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More Healthy Lifestyles Ideas

Stay Safe

Drugs, Drinking, Driving: Don't

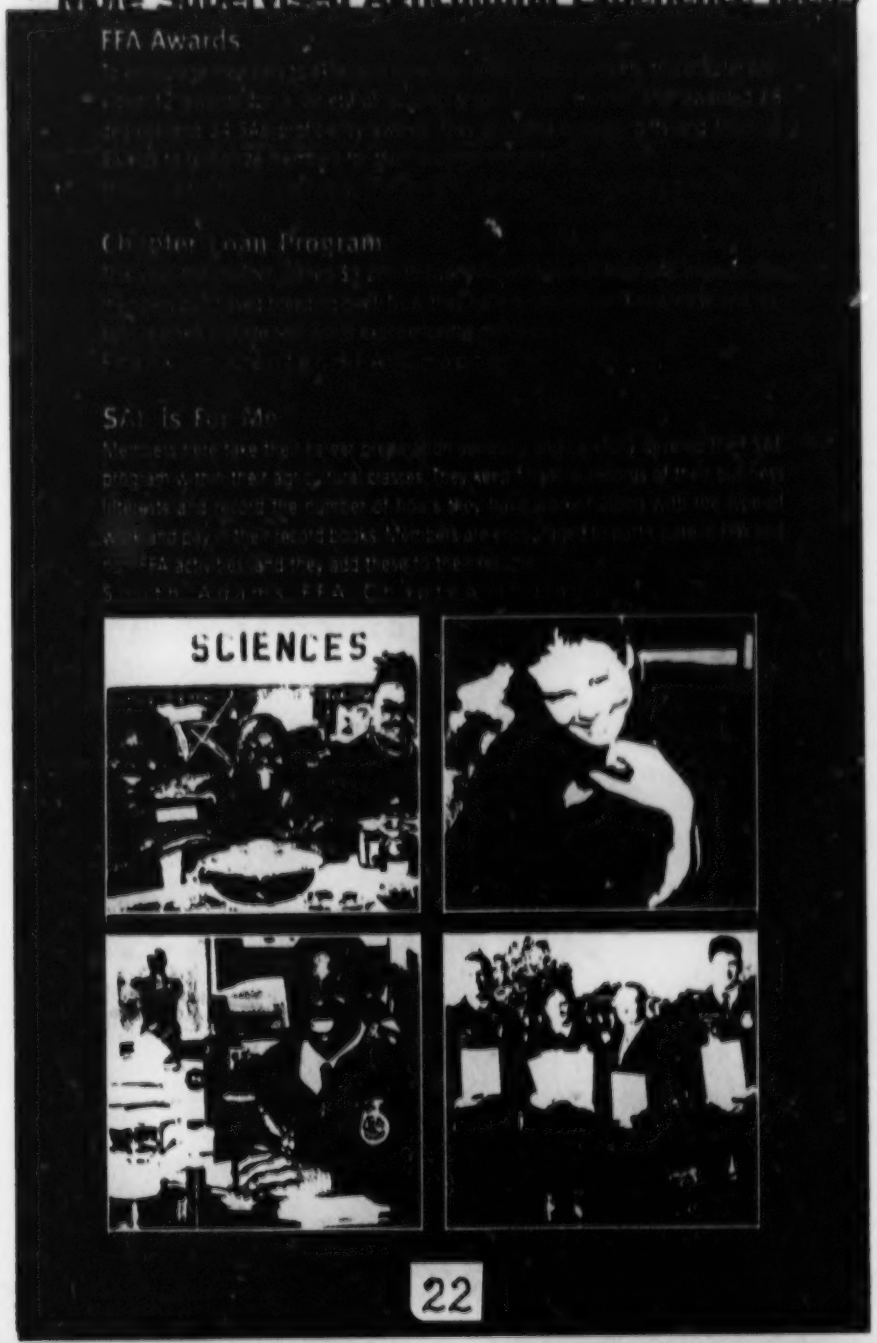
Hoops for You

Fitness Fun

Bike and Walk-a-thon

Agriculture Olympics

More Supervised Agricultural Experience Ideas



These activities promote student involvement and growth through agriculture-related experience and/or entrepreneurship.

Promoting Proficiency

To increase the number of American and State Degree applicants and the quality and quantity of proficiency applications, this chapter waged a full-fledged promotional campaign. They also improved facilities at the school so more students could take advantage of short-term animal projects. The results speak for themselves with a 27% increase in the number of proficiency applications, 64% of which placed in the top three at state competition.

Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

SAE Efficiency

This chapter noticed that many members had excellent SAE programs but were not taking time to complete the application process and/or promote their programs. A committee was created to focus on increasing the number of SAE applications and heightening exposure. Comprised of 15 members, the committee planned an application training session. Sessions included training on animal welfare, computerized record keeping, the Internet and state degree requirements. This activity promoted student involvement and decision-making skills and resulted in increased participation in the application process.

Harlan FFA Chapter, Iowa

Tasty F.R.E.E. Sensations

From the company's opening in November 1999 until its closing in April 2000, net profits totaled $2,000. Students learned to manage and balance financial records, formulate ingredients for their original pizza recipe and work cooperatively to accomplish their goals. FFA members learned how to run an independent and successful company.

Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Illinois

Hands-On Experience

FFA members enjoyed an educational experience when they spent a day on a fruit and vegetable farm. This alternative agricultural experience included working and learning about fruit and vegetable production.

Monticello FFA Chapter, Illinois

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Brown vs. Board of Education

This chapter was the youngest and largest group to participate in a series of panel discussions created to celebrate the anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision. This case laid the foundation for the modern civil rights movement. Through this experience, members learned that maintaining principles of stamina in the face of adversity can change history. Fifty members participated in this unique, one-time event.
Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Illinois

International Exchange

After a German exchange student visited their chapter, members' interest in the culture grew. Ten members traveled to Germany to experience the culture firsthand and share a bit about our own. Communication continues today via fax, phone and e-mail. Another trip is planned for German students to visit as the connection continues.
Carroll FFA Chapter, Indiana

These activities
develop a positive attitude
to lifelong learning experiences.

Life's Foundation

A committee was created to recognize "Students of the Month" and "Most Improved Member." A variety of activities are available to meet students' interests and give them the chance to learn more about each other and become accepting of all people.
Norco FFA Chapter, California

Character Building

Members participated in local and state skills contests to develop their knowledge of careers and enhance their management and decision-making skills. The FFA paid the entry fee at six invitational contests to give members a chance to practice their skills. The chapter had six teams in the top twenty at the state skills contest.
East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio

More Scholarship Ideas

Middle School

Recruiting and involving middle school students in the FFA chapter served everyone well. Focusing on middle school students before they get to high school produces eager and active FFA members who are better leaders in school and community.
Tri-County FFA Chapter, Indiana

Scholarship Program

[illegible] Students and parents may [illegible] scholarship awards.
Heritage FFA Chapter, Indiana

Scholarship Skills

[illegible] considered for awards.
South Adams FFA Chapter, Indiana

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More Agricultural Career Skills Ideas

Student's Skills

With a goal of getting every member involved in one of the career development events, students provided the event dates in advance to the school and their members. They also ensured that members had the materials they needed to practice for their events. The chapter succeeded in having 16 members honored for placing 1st and 2nd at the section and district level and had all team members pictured in the paper after the event.

Cissna Park FFA Chapter, Illinois

Board of Trade

The chapter's overall goal was to provide marketing and computer skills through a progressive learning experience. With the use of the Internet, business leaders demonstrated this to 100% of the members. Students charted their commodities daily, kept track of their profits and losses and took an in-depth test on commodity marketing. Teams placed fist, third and sixth in the state.

New Bremen FFA Chapter, Ohio

Booting Up for the New Millenium

A survey of students indicated a need for more career-related field trips and a chance to meet professionals. Students took action to make this happen and went on 12 field trips, met with 17 different speakers who shared their career insights and held a "contest night" where members shared their CDE experiences with interested students. As a result, fifty percent of members competed in 17 CDE areas at the chapter level.

Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

California Here We Come

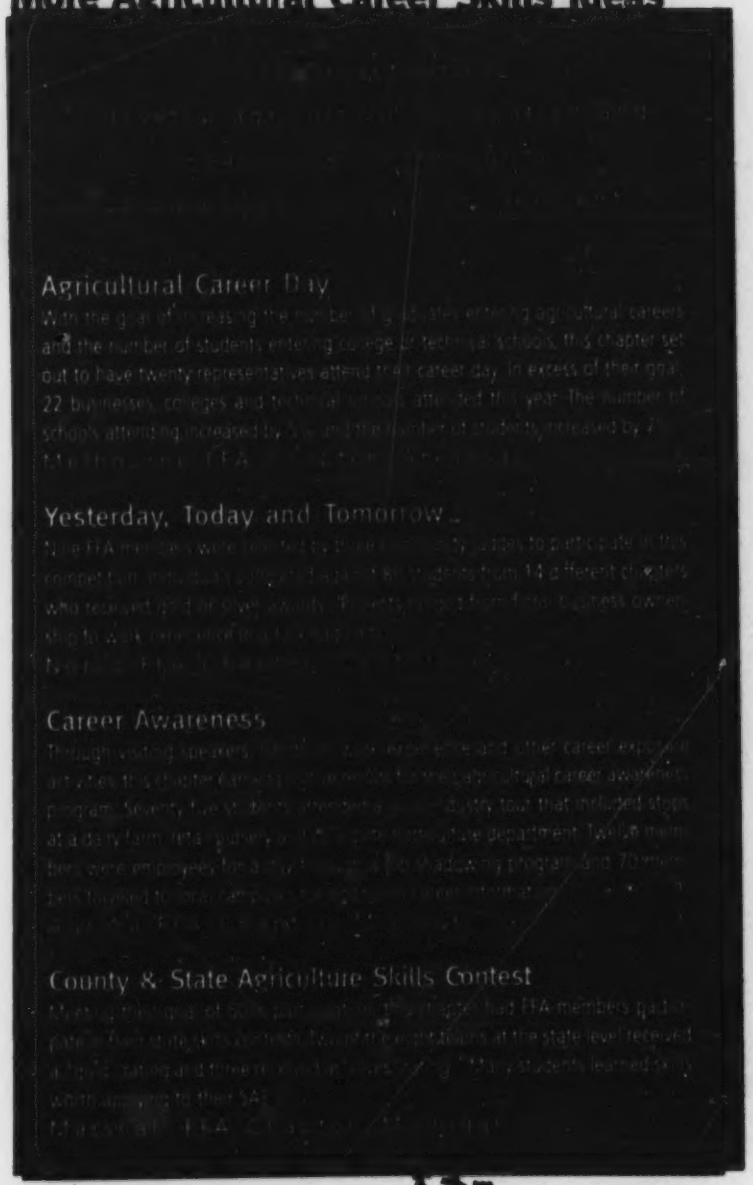
Ten FFA members traveled to experience another FFA chapter and the surrounding environment of the San Francisco Bay area. Members learned of innovative ideas and techniques for career development events, toured a dairy, and visited Cal Poly SLO University in addition to experiencing a bit of the northern California culture. Plans are underway for a future exchange.

Clinton Central FFA Chapter, Indiana

Youth Entrepreneur Conference

This educational experience exposed members to careers available in their field of interest and gave them the opportunity to learn about the qualities needed to succeed as entrepreneurs. Participants received awards of commendation for their business plans and ideas and several received an honorable mention in the business competition.

Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Illinois



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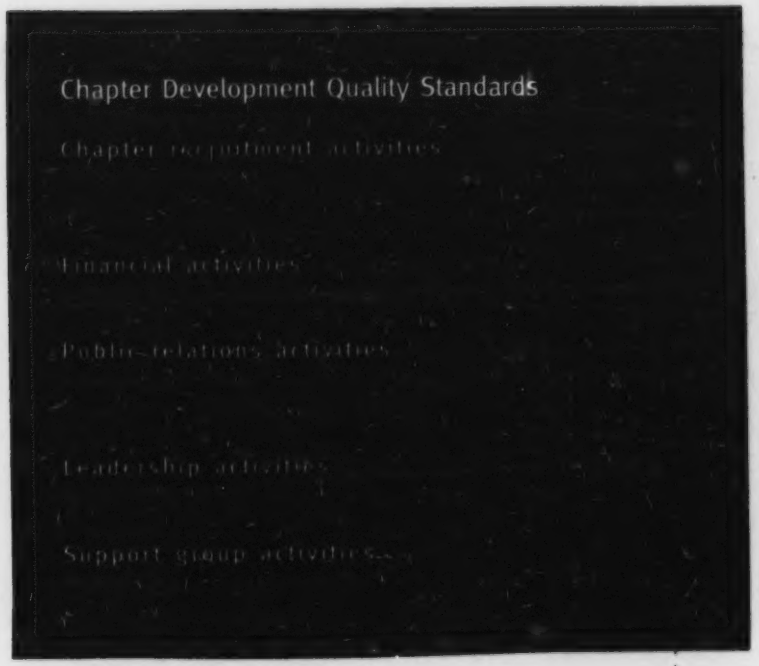
The Winner for Year 2000 is

PerrydaleFFAChapter,Amity,OR

"Everyone in our school gets involved, including the elementary students."
Krista McDowell,
2000-2001
Perrydale FFA Vice President



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Chapter Development Division Award Winner

Clearly the secret to success for FFA advisor, Kirk Hutchinson is student involvement. Nicknamed Hutch, he said, "FFA has something to offer every student. When I came to Perrydale seventeen years ago, my advisory committee and I agreed that the best education available for students is one designed to involve all students and focused on everyone's wants."

When it comes to developing a Program of Activities, FFA members at Perrydale High are adept at combining the best of tradition with brand new ideas to create a broad spectrum of successful activities. Students here know that it takes everyone's involvement to make an activity work and possess plenty of enthusiasm and energy. For them, it's as easy as saying, "Pass the Pig!"

One of the chapter's innovative fundraising and public relations began when another chapter invited them to join in their activity. Known as Pass the Pig, here small groups of FFA members each take a pig to businesses downtown in Portland and request donations. It's a great chance for members to meet and greet businesspersons and promote FFA while raising money for chapter activities.

Chapter President Kinton Hutchinson said, "we combine many traditional activities including ag olympigs and corn feed with suggestions for new activities from students. When someone has an idea, we ask if they are interested in working on it. They usually say yes." Another key to this chapter's success is immediate analysis of activities. For each activity, students write suggestions for the future and include what went well as well as what aspects could be improved.

The corn feed, an ongoing activity for seventeen years now, far surpassed the chapter's expectations. The FFA chapter along with dozens of other students not enrolled in agricultural education impressed everyone by serving the community of over 650 a delicious dinner with unlimited corn on the cob. Students coordinate the entire event and learn valuable organization and leadership skills. The money raised was used to pay dues for all chapter members. The event promoted their school and chapter through local newspaper coverage.

The goal of the Ag Olympigs activity was to promote the FFA chapter in a positive, innovative way to students, chapter members, parents, community and the media. The key to success was involvement of the student body and chapter. An all-school meeting was called to discuss the event and chapter members were encouraged to bring friends who were not in the FFA.

Over 300 people attended this bonanza of athletic activity. An impressive 75% of the student body helped to organize or participated themselves. Three local newspaper reporters covered the event with articles and double-page color features.

These activities increase agricultural education enrollment and/or FFA membership and encourage greater participation.

FFA "Rush" Week

A variety of FFA activities were used to appeal to a diverse group of young students with the intention of recruiting them into the FFA. As a result, the chapter became the largest FFA "family" in the state of Iowa. Members prepared a recruitment brochure and video, visited 100% of the school's 8th-grade classrooms and sent three mailings to 100% of 8th-grade parents, among other activities in their very successful effort.

Harlan FFA Chapter, Iowa

Recruitment and Retention and Recreation (R, R &R)

With a projected loss of 45 members for the new year (due to a change in the school system), this chapter set a goal of recruiting 100 new members. The R, R & R committee in charge suggested that food and recreation be added to their chapter meetings. Activities included pumpkin decorating and FFA pictionary plus lots of pizza and subs. They exceeded their goal of recruiting 100 new members and attribute their success to the R, R & R committee's work.

Monroe FFA Chapter, Washington

Recruitment

In hopes of recruiting high school students into FFA and providing junior high students with basic knowledge of FFA, the chapter officers made a comprehensive recruitment plan. They held seven meetings and had state and chapter officers speak at each one. Forty-eight junior high school students joined FFA and were active in parliamentary procedure, career development events and much more.

Clinton Central FFA, Indiana

Recruiting the Future

This chapter seizes every opportunity to reach out to new members. Each week, two FFA officers make announcements at each of fifteen agriculture classes; and they also conduct a fun, educational activity at every chapter meeting. Members visit 8th-graders during their lunches to share information about the program. A point award system is used to track participation and shows that 83% of members have participated in one or more of these activities.

Norco FFA Chapter, California

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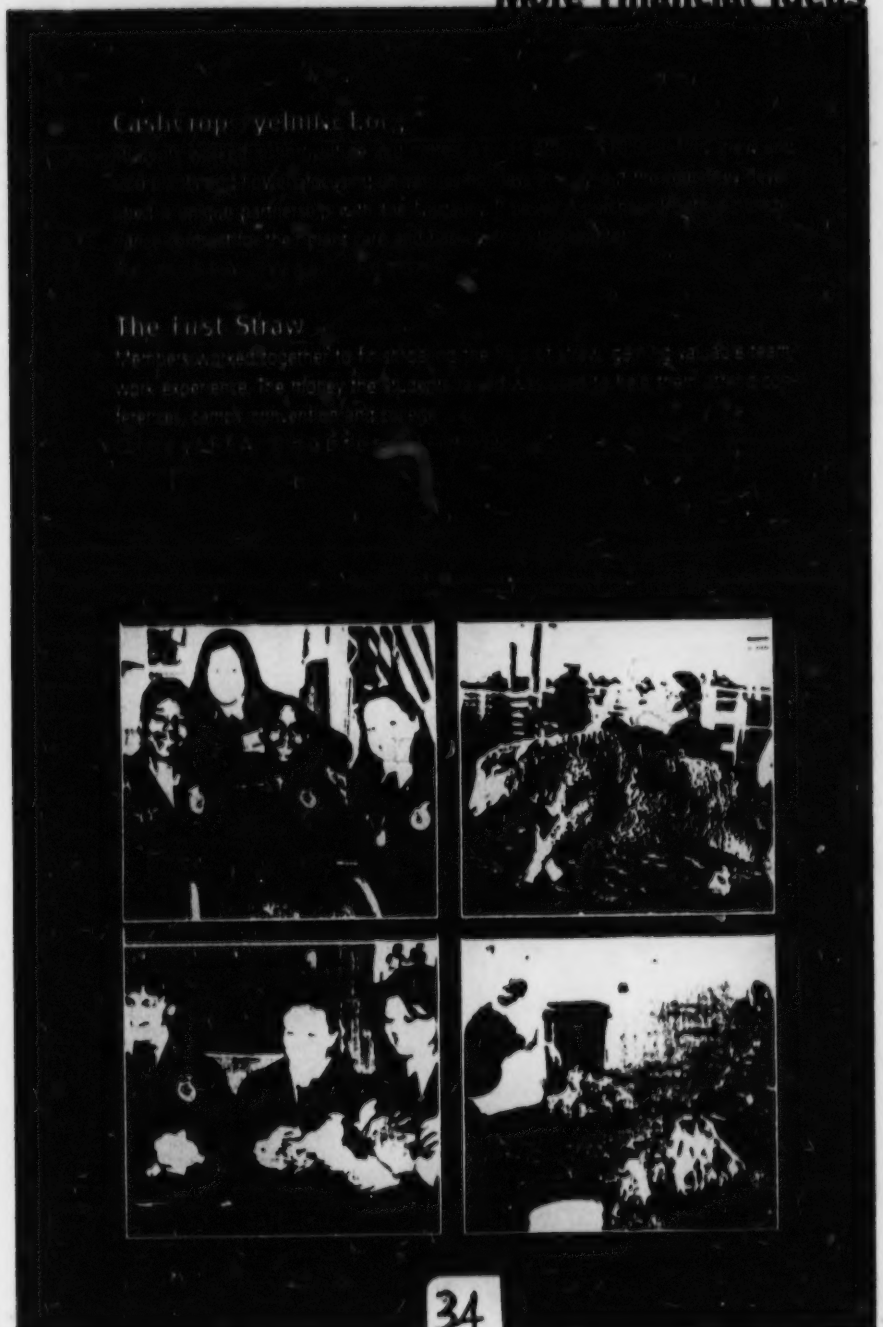
More Chapter Recruitment Ideas

Junior High Recruits

FFA Day in May

8th-Grade Leadership Night

More Financial Ideas



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These activities encourage thrift and good financial management among members through earnings, savings and investments.

Green Trees and Cheese

This chapter involved all members in producing, marketing and selling products ranging from Cabot cheese to Christmas trees. They raised a record amount of money totaling $24,741. Students enhanced their skills in public speaking, money management and cooperation.

Housatonic Valley FFA Chapter, Connecticut

Benefit Barbecue

The committee created a chart of items for which members were responsible and then broke into sub committees to organize all aspects of the barbecue. They contacted radio stations for promotion of the event, a refrigeration truck company for donation, the ice warehouse and the chicken and soda companies. The chapter netted $2,611 in profit, not including a donation of $2,000 from a local business. Their reputation of past successes in this event lead others in the community to get involved and lend support.

Easton FFA Chapter, Maryland

A Penny Saved

More than half of the chapter members and their parents attended this investment and savings workshop. Local professionals in business and financial management conducted seminars on money management techniques and good financial planning. Many FFA members applying for their chapter and state degrees found the information useful in recording their own financial records. Young entrepreneurs learned how to revamp their budget needs and set goals for their businesses.

Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Illinois

Bull-A Rama

The alumni chapter worked closely with the FFA and the fair board to prepare for this event. Local businesses buy advertising sponsorships to help pay for the stock contractor expenses. They raised nearly $4,000 this year. Alumni donated $3,000 to the chapter from their earnings.

Park FFA Chapter, Montana

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Agriculture Ambassadors

In order to make everyone aware of the FFA and agricultural education, the FFA officer team involved 21 members in their agriculture ambassador program. The ambassadors designed displays on agriculture for the school lobby, sent a letter to incoming freshman, gave presentations to the seventh grade and passed out information packets about FFA.

Heritage FFA Chapter, Indiana

On the Radio

To improve community awareness of the FFA chapter, their activities and happenings in the agriculture community, this chapter committed to bi-weekly radio addresses for the year. Members secured advertising dollars from local businesses to sponsor the program. Fifty FFA members participated, refining their communication skills and sharing information on their SAE. The chapter found this community link to significantly strengthen support for their chapter from the community.

Park FFA , Montana

Celebrate FFA Week

This chapter launched an intense campaign to promote FFA with both internal and external audiences during FFA week. Promotions include repeat inserts in local paper, a feature article on the chapter president, a large exhibit at school and an FFA billboard. Their planning began prior to winter break and paid off with lots of great publicity.

Marshall FFA Chapter, Michigan

Television Spot for Hair

This chapter decided that a great way to make money would be to cut their advisor's hair for donations. With the help of a local television crew, they planned an early morning spot that included members participating in a variety of diverse activities including the cutting of their teacher's long locks.

Cissna Park FFA Chapter, Illinois

More Public Relations Ideas

Mass Media Blitz

Web Connection

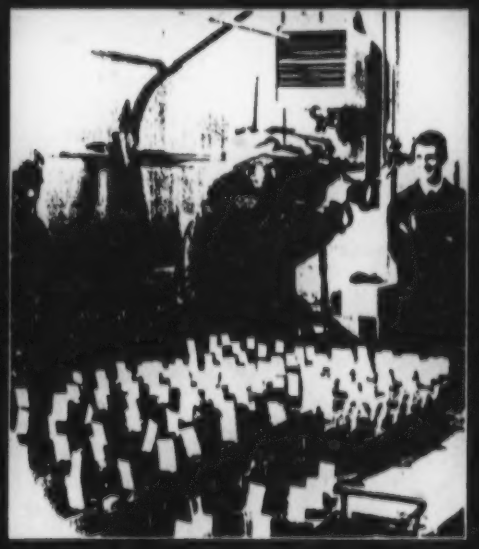
Today's News

Do You Know Us?

FFA Week

State Fair Exhibit Landscaping

Chapter Public Relations



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WWW.chapter.COM

COM stands for communication, organization and management. This chapter took their goal-setting and follow-up action seriously. They organized a summer retreat to set goals and a winter retreat to evaluate their progress. They planned a general chapter meeting and leadership committee meeting each month. Due to their organization and good management, they were able to address issues in a timely manner.

Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

AG Day at the Mall

Sixteen FFA members were involved in the mall day event. Over twenty different agriculturally related organizations and businesses participated in this one-day event. Members had the opportunity to gain valuable leadership experience while promoting agricultural literacy.

Marshall FFA Chapter, Michigan

Chapter Convention

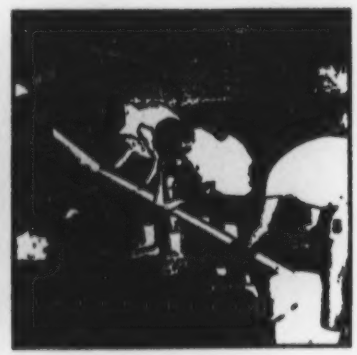
With the focus of leadership development and preparation of the district contests, the chapter created convention for a day. State officers provide inspiring speeches at break-out sessions, members competed in their areas and received tips from the judges along with lunch and recreation at the end the day. The chapter has experienced an 11% participation increase in contests.

Heritage FFA Chapter, Indiana

Chart the Challenge

The officer team's participation in the challenge course at the 4-H Memorial camp proved to be the greatest accomplishment of all the year's activities. The officer team learned to communicate, understand and cooperate with one another and solved some of their interpersonal challenges along the way.

Monticello FFA Chapter, Illinois



More Leadership Ideas

Sister States

Members of the citizenship committee decided there was value in connecting with [illegible] They [illegible] volunteers. One Hundred percent of members became involved with each of four classes adopting [illegible] Students learned that they are more alike than different from their regional counterparts and gained a better understanding about world society and agriculture.

Harlan FFA Chapter, Iowa

RHS Teamwork

[illegible]

8th Grade Leadership Camp

[illegible]

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Appreciation Days

To recognize and encourage continued support from their community, including teachers and administration, this chapter utilized National FFA Week to show their appreciation. Each day recognized a different group with surprises and activities geared to their interests. Teachers received appreciation letters from students with a total of 300 sent and members spent an afternoon cleaning a nearby highway to demonstrate their appreciation to the community.

Monroe FFA Chapter, Washington

Annual FFA and Alumni Golf Tournament

Fifty businesses supported the golf outing and the event raised $1,500 to support the chapter and FFA alumni activities. Chapter members remembered to write thank-you notes to each of the businesses and supporters involved in this successful event.

New Bremen FFA Chapter, Ohio

Perfect Stranger's Support

The Nebraska FFA Association chose this chapter to host their Department of Agriculture staff along with that of the USDA. They also toured the Nebraska National Forest in Halsey. Their members highlighted the community work their chapter has done there over the years. The event was highly publicized through the media and the publicity continued at the annual banquet. This event included all FFA supporters, parents, community leaders and 8th-grade students with their parents. It gave the chapter members a chance to show their appreciation for support throughout the year.

Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska

Beauty in the Park

This town needed an area for the community to picnic, exercise, relax and enjoy nature. So, the FFA worked closely with the city council in transforming an old landfill area into a beautiful town park. The FFA community service committee secured a grant of $2,000 that was used to build the landscape areas, flower beds, a shelter house, a paved walk path and natural resources area for birds. Members contacted local businesses for donations and built the picnic tables, bird houses, feeders and benches themselves.

East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio

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More Support Group Ideas

National FFA Week

Alumni Connection

Grist Mill Opens

The Winner for Year 2000 is

Perrydale FFA Chapter, Amity, OR

Community Development Quality Standards

Economic activities

Environmental activities

Human resources activities

Citizenship activities

Agricultural awareness activities

"It's a wonderful feeling to
pull together as a community.
I hope they would do the same for us."
Tracy Neal, 2000-2001
Perrydale FFA Chapter
Secretary

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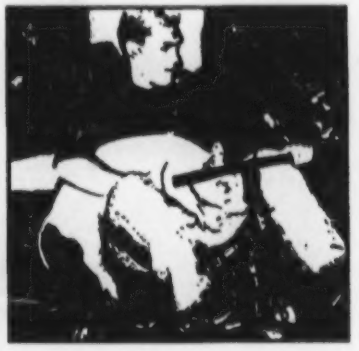
Community Development Division Award Winner

It all began when the mother of an FFA member came to Perrydale High and asked for help for the victims of the Oklahoma tornado. A gallant effort on the part of the FFA chapter and community resulted in a world of difference for five families who had lost everything. The Perrydale officer team and FFA advisor, Mr. Hutchinson, motivated others to get involved and used the media to assist them. They set up committees and solicited donations of food and goods that they stored in the shop until sorting occurred. Each of the five families received an array of supplies and an additional $200 in cash. The transportation committee secured a trailer and truck to transport goods the 1,600 mile distance. The seven tons of food and $4,000 in monetary donations Perrydale raised dramatically improved life for five families and helped everyone to learn that nothing feels quite as good as helping others in need.

In another community effort, FFA members worked with the entire high school to plan a successful holiday food and clothing drive. The effort was organized extremely well with students motivating other students and contacting local businesses for donations. Members contacted local radio, television and print media to assist in promoting this activity. Their enthusiasm was contagious as they met and exceeded their goals, gathering over 9,000 articles of clothing and four tons of nonperishable food. Students distributed the goods to local food banks and gave food to low-income community members. The spirit of giving put everyone in the right mood for the holidays.



All Night in Cardboard City

Forty members of this FFA chapter stayed all night in bitter cold weather to raise money for a local homeless shelter. Members raised more than $21,000 in donations and learned through a humbling experience how great it feels to give back to one's community.

East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio

Toys Are Us

Members had fun raising over $1,800 at their fifth annual toy show. Together with the Olney FFA Alumni, toy vendors and community members, the chapter worked hard to create a successful show. The entire community benefited from focusing on one common goal and FFA members had a chance to share news about their chapter.

Olney FFA Chapter, Illinios

Nick Piper Memorial Scholarship Fund

To commemorate a fellow FFA member, the chapter created a scholarship fund that would assist other students. They decided to raise and auction the pigs Nick Piper had owned before his death. Combined with additional donations, they raised over $10,000 for student scholarships.

New Bremen FFA Chapter, Ohio

Pork Quality Assurance Program

Seventy-six FFA members were trained and certified through this effort. Training included medicating pigs, record-keeping methods and techniques as well as production of a safe, healthy pork product. The pigs were kept free of drugs, residues and disease. All members were tested on their knowledge and the lowest score received was 87%. Quality and health of animals improved significantly at the county fair.

Clinton Central FFA Chapter, Indiana

It Takes a Village

To improve the economic welfare of their community, 17 members spent 166 total hours building a home for a family in their town with Habitat for Humanity. They attended meetings, assisted in the organization of activities and served as liaisons for the chapter.

Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

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More Economics Ideas

Food from the Hood

Fish Grants

More Environmental Ideas

These activities preserve natural resources and develop more environmentally responsible individuals.

Wetland Reclamation

With the mission of redeveloping the arable land, reclaiming a wetland and developing a nature trail, this chapter achieved 100% participation from their members. Currently in phase II of VI, the chapter has handled tillage and has completed plot monitoring of eight seed varieties with a 4% increase in yield. They continue to work on the drainage system and soil tilth.

Heritage FFA Chapter, Indiana

Salmon R Us

Members gained hands-on experience in aquaculture by managing 500 Coho salmon eggs. They created a program that educated over 600 elementary students on egg harvest, hatchery management, harvest techniques and salmon anatomy and provided basic environmental education to 75 children. Members gained increased awareness of environmental concerns of the salmon as an endangered species.

Monroe FFA Chapter, Washington

Project Halsey

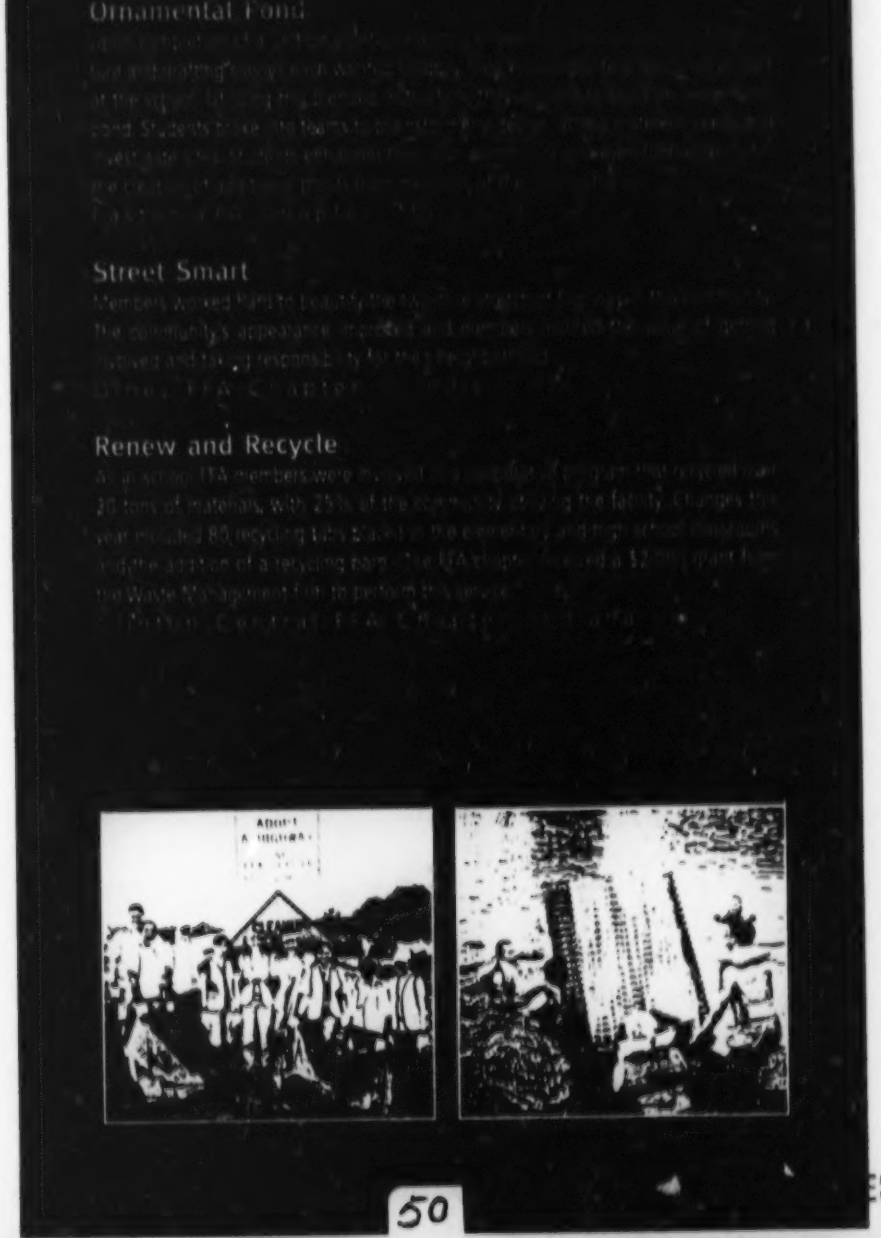
This three-day activity gives students a chance to volunteer their time on federal forest lands. Projects included construction of 10 artificial fish habitat units created to give fish a refuge where they can grow bigger and construction of three benches for use around the campfire tower. After their labor was complete, students had the chance to swim, fish, canoe, tube and just enjoy the natural habitat.

Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska

Project Environmentalism

The goal of this activity was to develop more environmentally responsible individuals through the use of conservation and environmental activities. In cooperation with several other entities, the chapter presented a conservation day including 10 different topics to 262 middle school students. Print and electronic media were used to promote the event. A dozen members made over 80 presentations to local clubs. Junior high students built more than 80 birdhouses and donated them to elementary students.

Harlan FFA Chapter, Iowa



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These activities improve the welfare and well being of members and citizens of the community.

Rabies Clinic

Through this chapter's work in promoting vaccinations to prevent the spread of rabies, they witnessed twice the amount of animals vaccinated. Students gained valuable experience in veterinary science and helped keep their community members safe.

Housatonic Valley FFA Chapter, Connecticut

Andy the Talking Ambulance

During fire safety week, members involved grade school students in a personal safety event. Members had Andy, the talking remote control ambulance, grab the attention of young students while he delivered a great message of safety for the entire community.

Cissna Park FFA Chapter, Illinois

Giving Something Back

With a goal of providing over 500 hours of service to the community and involving all FFA members, this chapter brainstormed a method that would work well for everyone. Members could earn points for FFA trips if they were to give five hours of their time to a community project. They could choose their project and the flexibility enabled 98% of the chapter to get involved, with over 575 hours of community service performed.

Melbourne FFA Chapter, Arkansas

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More Human Resources Ideas

Clean Up Day -

911 Safety

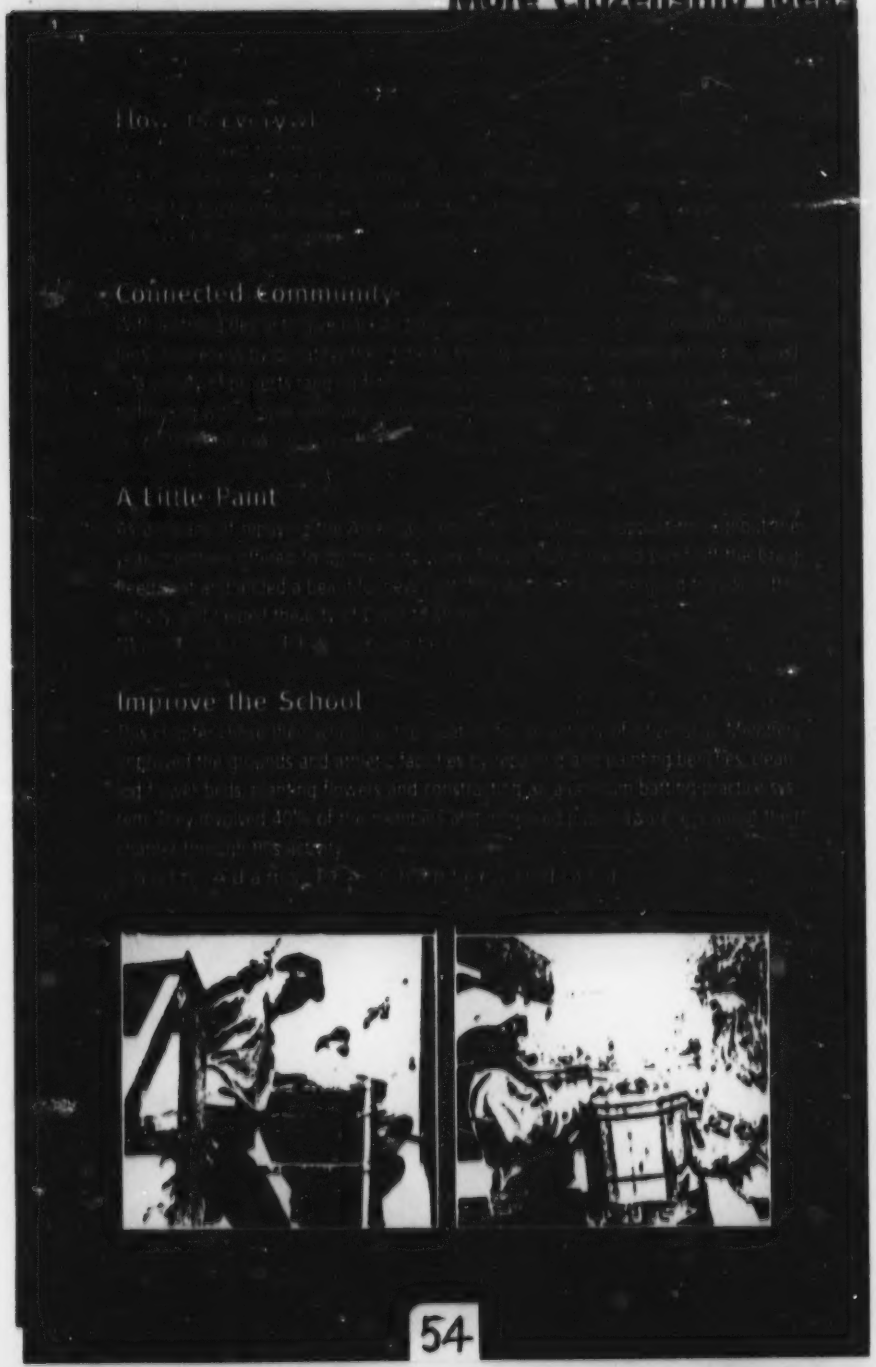
Blood Drive

Farmedic

Christmas Assistance Program

An International Hurricane

More Citizenship Ideas



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These activities promote and encourage members to become active, involved citizens of their school, community and country.

Race to End Hunger

Together with the middle and grade schools, FFA members set out to gather needed supplies for a local food panty. Together with teachers, they collected over 3,142 units of food and far surpassed their expectations. Cooperating with the junior high FFA members, this chapter held a dance where the price of admission was two cans of food.

Shenandoah FFA Chapter, Indiana

Legacy of Learning

As a means of enhancing members' computer skills and helping citizens of the community, members tutored seniors in computer technology. Lesson plans were developed for consistency. Local foundations contributed $16,000 to the project and endless friendships were begun. Seniors leaned to send e-mail to family far away.

Marshall FFA Chapter, Michigan

Lincoln Building

In an effort to restore the historical Lincoln building, FFA members worked well over 1,000 hours cleaning and refurbishing. They removed over eight dump trucks worth of material from the structure to clear the way for the rebuilding to begin. This was the first stone block building in town and is to be the headquarters of a local association when completed.

Franklin Center FFA Chapter, Illinois

Citizenship Journey

Legislative leaders taught students about the process required for a bill to become a law. Students witnessed the workings of the three branches of government during a visit with the governor. They even had the chance to hold $250,000 in state money for a photograph.

Melbourne FFA Chapter, Arkansas

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Elementary Education

Seventy-two FFA members (84%) developed their leadership skills and served as positive role models for 253 elementary students by presenting a variety of stations of animals. Members taught the younger students about where food originates and caring for animals. Ten FFA members demonstrated the cutting of a hog carcass to elementary students in the agriculture shop. FFA members also participated in Healthy Kids Day where they provided an educational animal display for special needs students and helped to grill and serve food.

New Bremen FFA Chapter, Ohio

Get to Know the FFA

When members set their mind to educating their community about agricultural issues, they did not leave anything out. They created a booth for the state fair, exhibits for the fall events and a float entitled "an FFA Noel." They even adopted 11 kindergarten classes to share with them the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives.

Aurora FFA Chapter, Missouri

Establishing a State Soil

Together with Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Monticello FFA worked to establish Drummer Silty Clay Loam as the state soil for Illinois. Members were active in every aspect of their goal. Although they have not yet succeeded, they will continue the pursuit until the state soil is designated.

Monticello FFA Chapter, Illinois

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More Agricultural Awareness Ideas

Food Fo[illegible] Week

Safety Awarene[illegible]

Agriculture Today

Extravaganza Bonanza

JeffDavisMiddleSchoolActivities

FFA advisor Nita McCloud found FFA members in her chapter eager to participate and enthused with great ideas. Members knew they had to work as a team and plan a Program of Activities that worked for the entire chapter comprised of 180 members. Ms. McCloud said, "you can plan a great POA but to be successful everyone must follow-through." This chapter has great support from both the administration and fellow teachers as well.

Student Development

Chapter Development

Community Development

Program of Activities

Accomplished FFA chapters understand that success is the result of planning and then implementing their plans. They develop a written Program of Activities (POA) to establish and work toward their goals for the year. A well-planned and well-executed POA helps students develop the skills they need for career and personal success.

A well-planned POA will:

- ★ ensure chapter activities meet members' needs;
- ★ lead to a workable budget;
- ★ provide students with experience in planning;
- ★ serve as a reference point throughout the year;
- ★ provide direction form year to year.

POA Development Steps

The strongest POAs emerge from a committee structure and process that involves every member in setting chapter goals, then planning and carrying out activities. Many chapters use the following steps. Start by using the National Chapter Award video to introduce members to the process. For more details and helpful forms, refer to *Chapter Planning and Recognition: A Student Handbook*. Both items are available form the National FFA Organization. Call 1-888-332-2668 and request item #PCHP or item # NCAH, respectively.

1. The chapter organizes standing, executive and special committees to address the areas of student, chapter and community development. Each member serves on at least one committee.
2. Each committee identifies goals and activities related to its purpose/area.
3. Committees present their selected activities, including estimated income and costs to the entire chapter for approval.
4. Approved activities and a combined chapter calendar of events are published in the written POA. It is distributed to all members.
5. Committees and subcommittees develop detailed plans for each activity.
6. Members carry-out the plans.
7. Committees report results and evaluate the activities. They prepare written final reports for each activity, noting costs, income, accomplishments and recommendations.
8. Chapter leaders refer to the POA and its results to prepare an application of the National Chapter Award program.

Applying for the National Chapter Award program is an opportunity to be recognized for all the hard work and accomplishments of the chapters. Recognition from both the state and national organizations rewards students for their diligence and brings prestige to their chapter.

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Goal Statement for FFA Chapter Activities

The National FFA Organization encourages chapter activities that provide:

MembershipRecruitmentTips

Membership is vital to every FFA chapter and agricultural education program. Potential members will be attracted to an active chapter comprised of satisfied students. This, in turn, enables everyone to get involved in a diversified and innovative Program of Activities.

- ★ Ensure the FFA chapter "belongs" to students. They are the ones who plan and conduct the activities and should receive the recognition that accompanies their success.
- ★ Connect with your community through activities and public relations. Utilize the media, Internet and special events to keep the news about FFA on the minds of your citizens.
- ★ Reach out to all audiences with a positive message about FFA and agricultural education.
- ★ Provide agricultural safety tips and Food for America lessons to elementary school students. Remember to include administration, school counselors and other teachers so they can see firsthand how all students learn from the FFA and agricultural education.
- ★ Intensely target the 7th and 8th-grade students with FFA information and activities. Hold a lock-in where your chapter officers present leadership workshops for their benefit. Create an agricultural career day where they can learn about the more than 300 careers.
- ★ Bring a diverse group of FFA members to activities when recruiting new members. Include freshman and sophomores (for age connection to middle grades) and include athletes, outstanding students and student council members. Not everyone need wear official dress. These steps will help younger students to relate to the FFA members.
- ★ Reach out to shy and "nontraditional" students in your chapter who could benefit significantly from FFA if they only had the chance to learn what it is all about.
- ★ Add fun and food to your activities whenever possible. Pizza and subs are a hit!
- ★ Plan an event: picnic, camping trip or barbeque just prior to the start of school and connect young recruits with existing members so they can share information about FFA.

TipsForSuccess

The tips on the following pages may be helpful to you when preparing your National Chapter Award application. They originated with those involved in the process including judges, advisors, members and national FFA staff.

Follow the developmental process outlined in *Chapter Planning and Recognition: A Student Handbook*. Identify specific goals that are measurable and realistic; develop a plan that is educational and meets the goals you have set; and evaluate the results you have achieved and the benefits members have gained. Be sure to include information on how the activity impacted members, the chapter, school and community.

- ★ In the application, every activity should have measurable objectives and the plan of action should be detailed and reference each objective.
- ★ Include specific facts about percentages of membership involved and accomplishments.
- ★ Keep a file of activities and notes on areas for improvement within each activity. Students can use this information when they begin the year's Program of Activities planning.
- ★ Use each activity once on Form I. If used more than once, your chapter will not qualify for National Gold recognition.
- ★ Invite your English teacher to edit and proofread your application. They will learn more about the FFA and you are bound to submit a better application. Always use spellcheck on your computer and grammarcheck if you have it.
- ★ Points may be deducted or an application may be disqualified for including supplementary materials not specifically requested on the application.
- ★ Review the application checklist before submitting your application. Follow instructions carefully. Please use the FFA award application folder as pages may be lost if not secured.
- ★ Photos tell your story and good photography is important. Plan ahead and have all events photographed well. Getting good photos means shooting ample film. Your photographer should have some experience in centering the people/objects in the photo and considering the necessary lighting to enhance the picture. The national FFA uses the winning photos in printed materials and cannot utilize scanned or digital images.

Photography for Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Illinois and Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon is provided by Jim D'Angelo. The remaining photography is provided by chapters.

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